

WELCOME

Welcome, EAA Chapter 123 Members and Friends!

As we transition into March, we find ourselves in a quieter period for our chapter, but that doesn't diminish our sense of community and camaraderie. While the winter months may bring a slower pace, they also offer us an opportunity to reflect on our past accomplishments and look forward to the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

Despite the calmness in the air, our passion for aviation remains as vibrant as ever. Although we may not have a flurry of events to report on this month, let's take this time to appreciate the friendships we've forged and the memories we've shared within our tight-knit EAA family.

As we eagerly await the arrival of spring and the resurgence of activity, let's continue to stay connected, support one another, and keep the spirit of aviation alive in our hearts.

Wishing you all smooth skies and tailwinds as we journey through March together! ➔

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Here is a shout out to the members that have an aircraft that has been featured on our website!

January 2024 Featured Aircraft



February 2024 Featured Aircraft



Check out our March "Featured Aircraft" on our [Website Homepage!](#) ➔

Chapter Meeting Details

Meeting Minutes:

- HQ Chapter Magazine Video
- Chapter VP Announcements
- Chapter Member Received the Wright Bros. Award
- New Student Pilot and Member Introduction
- Discussion about the Hobbs Glider Club
- Everyone Signed-In, and Dues were Collected
- Mingling with Great Conversation

Our February meeting was a success with several members, friends, and newcomers showing up. We discussed several chapter topics, enjoyed good food, and lots of great conversation revolving around aviation adventures.

Stay updated with any last-minute changes by 'Liking' our Facebook group. Click [HERE](#) to join the conversation and receive timely updates regarding our meetings and events.

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and extending a warm welcome to newcomers at our future meetings! See you there!

Join us for our upcoming chapter gathering on March 20, 2024, at 6:30 pm, where aviation enthusiasts gather to share stories, experiences, and a passion for flight. Our meeting spot is at Michael's Charcoal Grill, conveniently located at 723 W. Wadley Ave., Midland, TX 79705. Look for us in the cozy back room!

For those who fancy a meal, we recommend arriving a little earlier to savor the delights of Michael's Charcoal Grill before our aviation discussions take flight.

We also encourage you to check out our Website at chapters.eaa.org/ea123. ➔

Chapter Highlights

February brought a lull in activities for our chapter, understandable given the time of year and weather conditions. However, as the days grow longer and the weather starts to improve, anticipation for the upcoming flying season is palpable among our members. Despite the slower pace, our members have been busy making preparations for exciting adventures on the horizon. Planning for events like Sun 'N Fun and our continued trip to the Bahamas is well underway, with members eagerly looking forward to the thrill of taking to the skies once again. ➔



Defining Moments



Let's give a round of applause to Charlie Spence, a dedicated member of our chapter, who recently received the esteemed Wright Brothers Award, a testament to his remarkable five decades of aviation excellence. With over 50 years of flight experience under his belt, Mr. Spence first took to the skies solo in 1968 in a Cessna 150 in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Since then, his aviation journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has not only completed his private pilot certificate but also obtained his commercial multi-engine and instrument ratings, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to mastering the art of flight.



Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Spence has piloted an impressive array of aircraft, including the Beech D-18, Cessna 150 and 172, Cherokee 140, Aero Commander 500, Piper Cub, Starduster biplane, gliders, Pitts S2A, and a Beechcraft Bonanza. His versatility and skill in flying various aircraft types are a testament to his passion and expertise in aviation.

In addition to his achievements in the skies, Mr. Spence generously volunteers his time and expertise as a pilot for Pilots and Paws, a nonprofit organization that facilitates the transportation of rescue animals to their new homes. Flying primarily out of Midland Airpark, Mr. Spence helps give pets in need a second chance at life, covering routes across Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

With a little over 3000 logged hours, Mr. Spence's dedication to flying and his compassionate spirit exemplify the best of what it means to be a pilot and a member of our aviation community. Congratulations, Charlie, on this well-deserved honor!

We look forward to an exciting 2024 and we are wanting to **grow our organization** to share aviation with more great folks in our community. We are currently updating our website, and I encourage you to check it out at chapters.eaa.org/ea123. If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, I also encourage you to join there as well facebook.com/groups/ea123. ➔

On the Horizon

Call for Contributions: We're always looking for fresh ideas and perspectives to enrich our EAA chapter community! Whether you have a story to share, an event to announce, or an aviation-related topic you're passionate about, we invite you to contribute to our newsletter. Your input helps us create content that resonates with our members and fosters a sense of belonging within our aviation family. Have a suggestion for a future event, workshop, or project? Want to share your aviation journey or highlight a fellow member's accomplishments? We'd love to hear from you! To submit your contributions or ideas, please email kjgayneaux@gmail.com. Let's soar together and make our EAA chapter's future as bright as the skies above! ✈

Final Flight Notes

As we wrap up this month's newsletter, here are a few closing thoughts and reminders for our members:

Stay Connected: Even during quieter periods, staying connected with fellow aviation enthusiasts is essential. Whether it's through our chapter's online forums, social media channels, or in-person meetups, let's continue to support and inspire one another in our shared love of flight.

Safety First: With the flying season on the horizon, it's crucial to prioritize safety in all our aviation endeavors. As we prepare for upcoming events and adventures, let's remember to review and adhere to all safety protocols and procedures, ensuring that every flight is a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Get Involved: While February may have been slow, there are always opportunities to get involved and contribute to our chapter's success. Whether it's volunteering for upcoming events, sharing your aviation expertise, or simply spreading the word about our chapter's activities, your involvement makes a difference.

Share Your Stories: Aviation is all about storytelling and sharing experiences. We encourage all members to contribute their stories, photos, and insights to our newsletter and other chapter communications. Your contributions help enrich our community and inspire others to pursue their own aviation dreams.

As we look ahead to the warmer months and the adventures they hold, let's continue to support one another, embrace new opportunities, and celebrate the joy of flight together.

Safe travels, blue skies, and tailwinds to all! ✈️

Plane Fun: Special Edition

As part of our commitment to promoting aviation excellence and camaraderie, we're excited to shine a spotlight on the Hobbs Soaring Society. Set your sights high and explore the boundless skies with the Hobbs Soaring Society! Nestled amidst the desert landscapes of Hobbs, New Mexico, the Hobbs Soaring Society offers an exhilarating flying experience with its fleet of gliders, including a 2-seat Schweizer 2-33 for training and a single-place Schweizer 1-26 for soaring adventures. As we eagerly anticipate the skies reopening on April 1st, the club's 2024 plan is to take flight Thursday through Saturday, and possibly Sundays when soaring forecasts are favorable. Renowned for its exceptional soaring opportunities, Hobbs has proudly hosted the World Soaring Championships, showcasing the region's rich aviation heritage and commitment to excellence. (Airport ID: NM83).



Joining the Hobbs Soaring Society opens up a world of opportunities. Members gain access to club aircraft, enjoy low-cost tows, and benefit from affordable glider rentals.

As part of the Hobbs Soaring Society, members actively participate in ground operations, ensuring smooth takeoffs and landings for fellow pilots. They also play a pivotal role in maintaining the club's facilities, fostering a sense of ownership and camaraderie.

For just a \$200 initiation fee and nominal hourly rates, members can soar the skies in the Schweizer 1-26A at an unbeatable price. With unlimited access to flight instruction and low-cost rentals, the Hobbs Soaring Society makes the dream of gliding accessible to all.

Ready to spread your wings and join the soaring community? Visit the Hobbs Soaring Society's [website](#) to discover how you can take flight today! You can also find them on [Facebook!](#) ✈

